



# Park Hill Thorns Federation

Successful, confident learners. Responsible, compassionate individuals.  
**Newsletter Thursday 5 July 2019**



## Staff Absence

Unfortunately we have had a few members of staff who have been ill this year and absent from school. Some parents have asked how the schools cover these absences. We will always need to cover a class teacher who is absent. Our preferred option is to use members of our existing team who are part time or to go to supply cover staff who we and the children know well. Unfortunately this is not always possible and so on occasion we use agency staff to cover a teacher's absence, or indeed a teaching assistant's absence. Sometimes cover arrangements can be complicated, when someone's illness is extended or recovery takes longer than expected. When a teacher is absent in the short term we do not inform parents, however when an absence is extended we will do our best to keep parents informed.

At the moment Mrs Rawlings is away from school at Thorns due to a period of illness. She has popped into school to visit the team this week however we are not anticipating her return to work until November. Mrs Bennett in the school office at Thorns is also absent from work through ill health and again we hope to see her back in school in the autumn term. I am sure that you will all join with me in sending very best wishes to both ladies for a speedy recovery.

We have not been able to employ additional staff to cover all of the hours usually undertaken by Mrs Bennett and Mrs Rawlings so the existing staff have been working very hard to cover the duties and responsibilities normally undertaken by these two important members of the team. This in turn has had an impact on Thorns, and also on Park Hill as some roles and responsibilities are shared across the two schools. I hope that parents will understand that it may occasionally take us a little longer to reply to a message or find time to arrange a meeting whilst we are covering for our colleagues. In the meantime, whilst Mrs Rawlings is absent, if you have any concerns or issues about Thorns which you wish to discuss please continue to contact Mrs Bradbury.

## Events for week beginning Monday 8 July

	during the school day	after school
Monday	Lunchtime French Club Please return all school library books this week	Spaghetti Maths, GoGo Makers 3-4pm 3.15 - 4.15 Final Athletics and Origami club 3.15 - 4pm Year 6 £5 challenge stalls Parents Evening 4-6.30pm
Tuesday	Lunchtime recorder club Y6 SATS results and Progress updates for Years 3, 4 and 5 sent home to parents	Rattle and Roll Dance Club, GoGo makers 3-4pm 3.15 - 4.15 Final Cricket club, and Sewing club (Sewing club until 4.30)
Wednesday	Yr 5 Cricket festival Yr 6 Rounders Tournament	Football Club 3-4pm 3.15 - 4.15 Final Spanish Club Parents Evening
Thursday		Athletics, Mad Science 3-4pm Parents Evening 3.15-4.15 Final Bayleaf Cookery and Spaghetti Maths clubs
Friday	9.05am Well Done Assembly 10.20am Celebration Assembly Transition story times in new classes	Bayleaf Cookery Club 3-4pm Tennis 3-3.45pm 3.15 - 4.15 Final Yr 5 /6 Rounders club
Sunday	PTA Pop Up Circus (held at Thorns)	

## Sports Day at Thorns

We had a really enjoyable sports day last Friday: the sun shone; parents cheered; some children won their race and enjoyed an opportunity to shine; others learnt how to deal with not coming first and small setbacks. Many thanks to the PTA volunteers for providing the refreshments and the school community for coming out and supporting the event. Before sports day all children have a go at the events being competed by their year group and each child then chooses two events in which they wish to participate - this is why there were lots of javelin events and fewer egg and spoon - it's all down to the children's choices.





**Monday Evening Stalls**

Our Year 6 children have been showing their ingenuity and creativity whilst taking part in our £5 challenge. Each child has had £5 to turn into profit and children will be running stalls after school on Monday to sell the items they have created, food they have cooked and the games they have made. These items will cost between 50p and £3 and we encourage children and parents to stay for a few minutes after school and enjoy the stalls.

**Athletics success (again!)**

Last week our athletes competed against the rest of Kenilworth, this week they competed for Kenilworth against the rest of Mid-Warwickshire with similar success! Congratulations to: Beth, Bella, Angel, and the Year 4 and 5 relay teams who were all victorious. Equally importantly, a huge well-done to Joe for his lovely act of sportsmanship at the end of his race and to Beth and Charlotte who filled in to other races where competitors were missing.



**Country Dancing**

It seems hard to believe that a few weeks ago the weather was awful but this led to the cancellation of the country dancing at the castle. We were delighted that children were so keen that they chose to perform for parents after school this week and, despite a few directional hiccups, did a lovely job.



**Sports Day**

Congratulations to Pentagon house for their victory on Sports day but also to all the children who competed with spirit and joy!  
Miss Biggs



**School Library Books**

Please return all school library books this week so that we can conduct a stock take and check before the summer holiday. Many thanks.  
Thank you too to the volunteers who have helped with library sessions this year and enabled children to take an additional books home and broaden their reading.



**Strawberry Tea**

This is an annual event to thank all the volunteers who enable our school to keep delivering the exciting learning opportunities that provide the children with such memorable moments - whether its swimming, trips, cooking, gardening, arts week or library - we couldn't do with you! I hope many of our volunteers will be able to join us on the afternoon of Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July. Invitations to the tea are being sent home with children today.



**Year 2 Visit to Park Hill on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July**

Year 2 have been invited to join the children at Park Hill to watch the dress rehearsal of the Year 6 leaver's production - Mary Poppins. We are seeking some volunteers to accompany the children on their visit - to walk with us to Park Hill and back again and stay to watch the performance. We will be leaving Thorns at 9am and returning at approx. 11am. Please let the office know if you are able to help, thank you.

**Swimming for Next School Year**

Year 2 will be swimming on Tuesdays next year and Year 1 will be swimming on Thursdays. The first two classes swimming will be maple class in Year 2 and oak class in Year 1. More information will be shared in the autumn term.

## Park Hill Dates for your Diary

14<sup>th</sup> July PTA Circus!  
 15<sup>th</sup> July - Year 6 dress rehearsal  
 16<sup>th</sup> July - Yr 6 performance to parents  
 17<sup>th</sup> July - Yr 6 Leaver's party  
 17<sup>th</sup> July - Year 4 Cricket festival  
 18<sup>th</sup> July - Buckingham Cup  
 19<sup>th</sup> July - Leaver's assembly

## Thorns Dates for your Diary 2018-2019

8<sup>th</sup> July - Parent Consultation meetings 4.00 - 6.30pm  
 NEW 8<sup>th</sup> July - please return all school library books  
 15<sup>th</sup> July - Volunteers Strawberry Tea 2.15pm  
 NEW 16<sup>th</sup> July - Parent Partnership Meeting for new Year 1 children at 9am and again at 2.30pm  
 17<sup>th</sup> July - Leavers' Assembly 9.15am  
 18<sup>th</sup> July - Leavers' Party pm

Park Hill and Thorns Term Dates for 2019-2020	
<b>Autumn 2019</b>	teacher training day Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September school open Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September to Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October holiday Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November teacher training day on Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November school open Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November to Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Spring 2020</b>	teacher training day Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January school open Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January to Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February holiday Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February school open Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April holiday Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> April to Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Summer 2020</b>	teacher training day Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April school open Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April to Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May holiday Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May school open Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June to Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July teacher training day Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July